

孫子の兵法

そんしのへいほう

まんが
読破

イースト・プレス

孫子の兵法

SUN TZU'S "THE ART OF WAR"

THE
COMPLETE,
COMIC
BOOK
STORY.

EAST PRESS

MAIN CHARACTERS

孫子の兵法

SUN TZU'S "THE ART OF WAR"

DON'T LET A SHORT-TERM VICTORY CAUSE YOU TO LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR TRUE OBJECTIVE.

KOKEN

KING OF SHIN. A KIND-HEARTED RULER WHO ABHORS VIOLENCE, LOVES PEACE AND CARES DEEPLY ABOUT HIS SUBJECTS.



RYOKYU

SHIN GENERAL. AN AMBITIOUS SOLDIER FAMED FOR HIS COMMAND OF HIS TROOPS.



SONBU

SHIN MILITARY STRATEGIST. A CRAFTY TACTICIAN WHO SKILLFULLY DEVISES STRATEGIES FOR ALL SORTS OF OCCASIONS, NOT JUST FOR WAR.



TO GEN

KING OF SEI. HE YEARNS TO REFORM THE TRADITIONS & INSTITUTIONS OF THE OLD DYNASTY.



BAI SEI

KING OF SO. WILL DO ANYTHING TO RESTORE THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF HIS DYNASTY.



SHUGO

KING OF KAN.



SHUSHIN

KING OF EN.



RYOKO / GO'O

KINGS OF CHO AND GI.



KASHI

A SHIN SPY TASKED WITH PROTECTING KOKEN.

CHOKYU

PRINCE OF THE BARBARIAN EMPIRE. HE'S BEEN TASKED WITH INVADING AND CONQUERING THE CENTRAL PLAINS.

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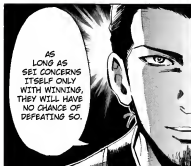
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戦いの原則

THE PRINCIPLES OF WAR







孫子の兵法

SUN TZU'S "THE ART OF WAR"

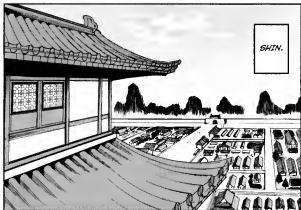
THE
CENTRAL
PLAINS

...

A
GREAT AND
POWERFUL
LAND
STRETCHING
FAR ACROSS
THIS VAST
CONTINENT AND
POPULATED
BY MANY
DIFFERENT
PEOPLE.

SINCE THE
BEGINNING
OF TIME,
IT HAS BEEN
THE SITE OF
CONSTANT
CONFLICT AND
BLOODSHED.





SHIN.



ACTUALLY,
IT WAS THE
SO ARMY WHO
HAVE ABANDONED
THE FRONT AND
BROUGHT THE
MATTER TO AN
END...

REALLY?

こけん
夸国王 江建
KOKEN, KING OF SHIN



IT
APPEARS
THAT SEI
HAS WON
THIS TIME.

YES.







THEIR
DESCENDANTS'
AMBITIONS
MAY ONE DAY
PUSH THEM
INTO WAR.

EVEN IF WE
ASSUME THAT
THE CURRENT
KINGS WILL
WISH TO
UPHOLD
PEACE...

...



I DO NOT
KNOW THE
ANSWER TO
THAT BUT...

IT IS MY
OPINION THAT
THOSE IN POWER
WHO WISH TO
REMAIN
INDEPENDENT
CANNOT AVOID
WAR...



IT'D BE
BETTER
FOR THE
KINGDOMS
TO STAND
UNITED
TOGETHER
...

AND TO
PROTECT
THE PEOPLE
FROM
THEM...



ALL
OVER THE
CONTINENT
THERE ARE
THOSE
WHO'D
WISH TO
DEVOUR
OUR
DOMAIN.

IT'S
NOT
JUST
THE
CENTRAL
PLAINS,
SIRE.



YOU'RE A MAN
AREN'T YOU? JUST
TAKE YOUR ARMY AND
GO UNITE AS MANY
KINGDOMS AS YOU
CAN!



ARE
YOU STILL
WORRYING
ABOUT THAT
STUFF,
KO?!



THAT WOULD
STILL REQUIRE
THE SACRIFICE
OF A GREAT
NUMBER OF
PEOPLE...WHEN
I THINK ABOUT
THAT...

BLIT
...



THEN
YOU'LL HAVE
NOTHING TO
WORRY ABOUT
IF YOU
ENTRUST THIS
MATTER TO US.



I OWE
EVERYTHING I
HAVE TO YOU
TWO...

NOT THAT YOU
DON'T HAVE MY
COMPLETE
CONFIDENCE!









THESE
FOOLS
STILL DO
NOT UNDER-
STAND THE
GRAVITY OF
THE SITU-
ATION. THE
YEARS OF
PEACE HAVE
MADE THEM
FORGET
WHAT WAR
IS.

THE
SURVIV-
AL OF
THE KING-
DOM
IS AT
STAKE
HERE
AND
YET...



NOW
IS THE TIME
TO STRIKE
DOWN THE
TRAITOROUS
SEI...

WHO
HAVE FANNED
THE FLAMES OF
WAR WHILE
PRETENDING TO BE
REVOLUTIONARIES!
THEY MUST PAY
FOR SHOWING
SUCH CONTEMPT
FOR THE PEOPLE
OF THE CENTRAL
PLAINS!



STILL,
THIS MIGHT
PROVE TO BE
THE PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY
FOR US,
YOUR
MAJESTY!



BLINCH OF
USELESS,
OLD MEN
WHO ONLY
THINK ABOUT
THEMSELVES
...



WE
WILL DO
NOTHING.

NO.



DO YOU
WISH FOR
THE CENTRAL
PLAINS TO BE
DESTROYED?!



NOW
THAT THEY
ARE AT THEIR
WEAKEST
WE HAVE A
CHANCE TO
WIN THE
WAR!

BUT
WHY?!



RIGHT
NOW
...

WE
MUST TAKE
MEASURES
AGAINST A
DIFFERENT
ENEMY.

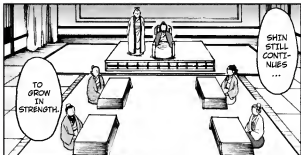


I WILL NOT
BE THE FOOL
RESPONSIBLE
FOR OPENING THE
DOORS FOR THE
FOREIGN HORDES!

WITHOUT SEI
NOTHING WILL
STOP THE
SAVAGES FROM
INVADING OUR
LANDS!



LUCKILY,
SEI ALSO
CAN'T MAKE
A MOVE
YET.





WITH SUCH INDIVIDUALS OF UNKNOWN STOCK BY HIS SIDE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHAT THE SHIN KING WILL DO...



ARE YOU SAYING THEY'VE SEEN THROUGH ALL OF OUR TRICKS?!

DAMN IT, MAN!



KOKEN'S STRATEGIST SONBU AND GENERAL RYOKYU...

ARE TWO VERY UNPREDICTABLE PEOPLE.

THOUGH THEY ARE FOREIGNERS, THEY'VE DECIDED, FOR WHATEVER REASON, TO SHIELD KOKEN FROM ANY AND ALL DANGER.



IF WE GOT RID OF EITHER ONE OF THEM...

WE WOULD DEAL A HEAVY BLOW TO SHIN.







THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE THEIR EYES ON KAN.

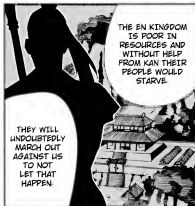


WE ALSO DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM JOINING FORCES WITH SOME OTHER KINGDOM AT THIS TIME.

BUT IF WE CAN CUT OFF THEIR SUPPLIES AND DRAW THEM INTO A DRAW-OUT WAR, VICTORY SHALL BE OURS.

WE WILL OF COURSE END UP SURROUNDED BY ALL THE OTHER KINGDOMS ...

I UNDERSTAND.

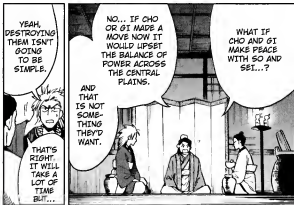


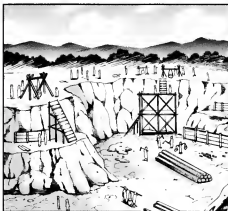
THE EN KINGDOM IS POOR IN RESOURCES AND WITHOUT HELP FROM KAN THEIR PEOPLE WOULD STARVE.

THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MARCH OUT AGAINST US TO NOT LET THAT HAPPEN.



THAT'S RIGHT. IF WE TAKE KAN, EN WILL NOT STAY SILENT.





IF THE RIVER
LEVELS RISE DUE
TO HEAVY RAINS,
WE WILL COLLECT
THE EXCESS
WATER HERE...

THIS
PROTECTING
OURSELVES
FROM FLOODS
AND CREATING A
FRESH WATER
RESERVOIR AT
THE SAME
TIME.



WHAT'S
THAT?

THIS
DIG SITE
WILL
BECOME A
REGULA-
TING
RESE-
VOIR.



I'M
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO THAT.

ADDITIONALLY,
IF WE DIVERT
THE WATER INTO
IRRIGATION
CHANNELS AROUND
THE AREA, WE WILL
BE ABLE TO GROW
CROPS HERE.



I SEE.
SO IT WILL
SERVE US
DURING BOTH
FLOODS AND
DROUGHTS.

YES,
SIRE.



WAA
AAH!

IT
WENT
THAT
WAY!



LOOK OUT!
IT'S OUT OF
CONTROL!

TOWD
TOWD

WILD
BOAR
COMING
!



WATCH
OUT...!

MASTER
SONBU

LORD
KOKEN



SORRY,
SORRY.



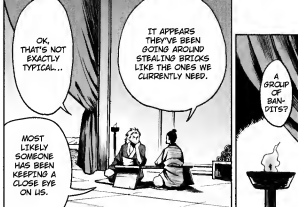
IT
SORT OF
GOT AWAY
FROM ME.

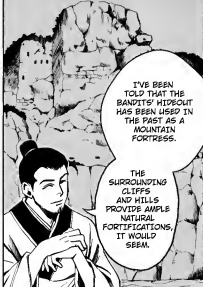
























I KNOW.
THAT'S
WHY...

IS
THIS A
JOKE?

IF IT WASN'T
FOR OUR TRADE
WITH KAN, THE
KINGDOM OF EN
WOULD HAVE
STARVED.



FROM
WHERE WE'RE
STANDING,
YOUR
FRIENDSHIP
WITH KAN
RIGHT
NOW...

DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE IT HAS A
VERY BRIGHT
FUTURE.



EN AND KAN RELY
ON ONE ANOTHER
FOR THINGS THE
OTHER SIDE LACKS,
BUT IN RESULT
YOU'RE BOTH JUST
HOLDING EACH
OTHER BACK.



I'M ASKING
YOU TO GO
AND TAKE KAN
TOGETHER
WITH US.



WHY DON'T
YOU COME
OVER TO
OUR SIDE?

HOW
ABOUT
IT?

RATHER
THAN
CONTINUING
THIS SORT
OF RELA-
TIONSHIP
WITH KAN...



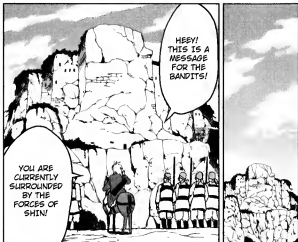
IN THAT SENSE,
ANYONE WOULD
WANT TO
PARTNER UP WITH
THE RISING
POWER OF SHIN.

THE ONE THING
OUR POLITICALLY
INSIGNIFICANT
KINGDOM
DESIRES THE
MOST IS AN ALLY
WITH WHOM WE
COULD DEAL AS
EQUALS.



RIGHT NOW,
NO ONE IN
THE CENTRAL
PLAINS
WOULD BE
ABLE TO
STAND UP
TO THEM.

BUT
ALAS
...





AND FORCE
US TO
STORM THE
FORTRESS!!

YOUR CONTINUED
SILENCE WILL
BE TAKEN AS
A SIGN OF
RESISTANCE...



DO NOT
PANIC.
PROCEED
ACCORDING
TO PLAN.

YES,
SIR!



ONE
FALSE MOVE
AND THE
HOSTAGES
DIE!!

YOU'RE THE
ONES WHO
WILL DO AS
YOU'RE
TOLD!!













THE KAN
ARMY HAS
DISAPPEARED
!!







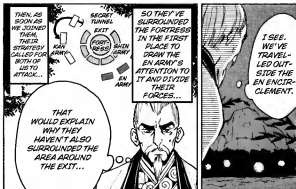
AND THEN
WE'LL COME
BACK IN FULL
FORCE AND
TAKE CARE
OF YOU.



YEAH,
WELL,
IN OUR
CASE...

EVEN IF
IT GOES
BADLY,
WE WILL
JUST GO
BACK TO
SQUARE
ONE.























GENERAL
...

WHAT
IS
IT?



THAT'S
ACTUALLY
LESS
THAN
WHAT I
EXPECTED
...

THANK
YOU
...

WE'VE
ALSO
LOST 50
HORSES.



TOO
SOLDIERS
DEAD
OR
WOUNDED.
ALMOST 50.
300
CASUALTIES
ON
OUR
SIDE.



SO WHY
DID ALL
OF THIS
HAPPEN TO
US?

I THOUGHT THE
PLAN WAS FOR
US TO JUST
LURE THE SHIN
HERE AND
ATTACK THEM
...

WHAT WAS
THE POINT
OF THIS
BATTLE...?



I DO
NOT
KNOW
...





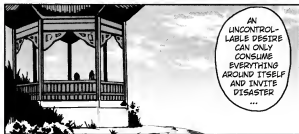
TO
BREAK
THROUGH
KAN AND EN'S
DEFENSES
...

SHIN HAS
RIPPED
THE TWO
KINGDOMS
APART.

THE
ALLIED
KING-
DOMS OF
CHO AND
BI.

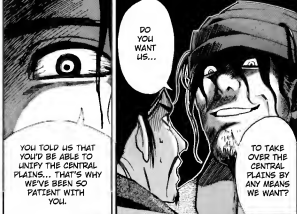


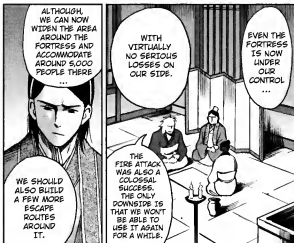
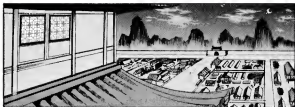














AND IN
SUCH A
DECEITFUL
WAY TOO
...

BUT
WAS THERE
REALLY A
NEED TO
DESTROY THE
RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN EN
AND KAN?

YOUR
ABILITIES
ARE THE
GENUINE
ARTICLE.
YOU HAVE
MY UTMOST
CONFIDENCE
...



EVEN IN
THIS CASE,
THE LOSSES
WE'VE SUFFER-
ED WERE SMALL
COMPARED TO
THE END
RESULT.



AGAIN
WITH
THE
SOUR
FACE
...?



THAT'S TRUE BUT
THEY WERE THE
ONES WHO TRIED
TO PUT ONE OVER
ON US FIRST.

IF WE HAD
NOT TAKEN THE
INITIATIVE,
THERE'S NO DOUBT
IN MY MIND THAT
EN AND KAN
WOULD'VE FOUGHT
US UNTIL WE WERE
COMPLETELY DESTROYED
...





THEREFORE, INSTEAD OF WINNING OVER AN ENEMY WITH FORCE, IT'S BEST TO OUTSMART HIM.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF ONE ACHIEVES VICTORY BUT SUSTAINS HEAVY LOSSES, HE WILL SUFFER FOR IT LATER.

THE ESSENCE OF WAR IS NOT THE BATTLE OF BRUTE FORCE BUT THE BATTLE OF WITS.

"ALL WARFARE IS BASED ON DECEPTION."



BUT IN THAT CASE WE COULD HAVE BROKERED AN EARLY PEACE BETWEEN SHIN, KAN AND EN, COULDN'T WE?!



FOR THE SAKE OF OUR GREAT AMBITION, WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO FALTER NOW.

BESIDES, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EN AND KAN WOULD'VE COLLAPSED SOONER OR LATER.



NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THAT.

NO ...

!













THIS
IS THE BASE
FROM WHERE
WE WILL
BEGIN THE
INVASION OF
THE CENTRAL
PLAINS!!

KAN
IS NOW
UNDER THE
CONTROL
OF THE
BARBARIAN
EMPIRE!

LET
ALL THE
OTHER
KING-
DOMS
KNOW
THIS!

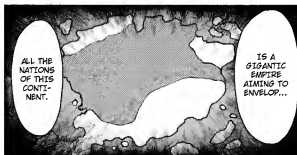


BUT OPPOSE
US AND WE
WILL PAINT
THE CENTRAL
PLAINS WITH
THE BLOOD
OF YOUR
PEOPLE!



IF YOU
QUICKLY
SURRENDER
TO US, WE
WILL SHOW
YOU MERCY
!







THEY
REALLY DO
NOT THINK
MUCH OF
US...

THE PEOPLE OF
THE CENTRAL
PLAINS WILL
NEVER BOW
THEIR HEADS TO
A BUNCH OF
SAVAGES!



WE WILL MAKE
THEM REGRET
THE DAY THEY
BORE THEIR
FANGS AT US!



YES,
SIRE!

GATHER
THE
SOLDIERS
AT ONCE!

WE WILL
SHOW THE
BARBARIANS
THE FULL
EXTENT OF
OUR POWER!





EXACTLY AS WE'VE PREDICTED.

HMPH

狄 帝国王子
ちよきゆう 宁仇
CHOKYU PRINCE OF THE BARBARIAN EMPIRE

YES, SIRE.

THE KINGDOM OF SO HAS REFUSED TO SURRENDER AND IS PLANNING TO OPPOSE US TO THE VERY END.

CHO AND GI HAVE REQUESTED PEACE.

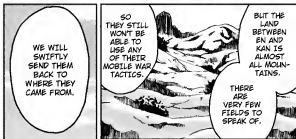
EN ALSO PLANS TO FIGHT US AND IS PREPARING TO MARCH OUT 5,000 TROOPS TO TAKE KAN BACK.





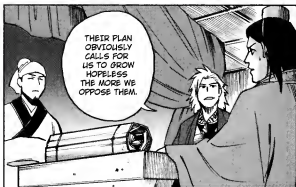
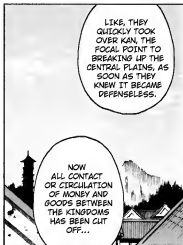




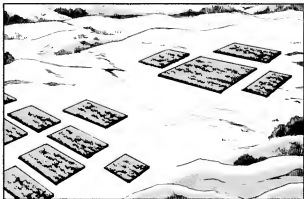












CAVALRY

IMPERIAL
MIXED FORCE

THE ENEMY
HAS TAKEN
A CENTRAL
ENCIRCLED
FORMATION
AGAINST OUR
CENTRAL STRIKE
FORMATION.

IN
THE CENTER
THEY HAVE A
MIXED FORCE
OF TROOPS
GATHERED FROM
AROUND THE
EMPIRE.

AND AT THE
REAR, RIGHT
AND LEFT, THEY'VE
POSITIONED THEIR
NATIVE CAVALRY!

STEP!

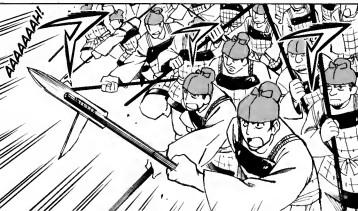
REPORT-
ING,
SIRE!

THEIR TIGHTLY CONCENTRATED
MIXED FORCE IS SUPPOSED TO
EXHAUST US... AND WHEN WE
PLUNGE INTO THE HEART OF
THEIR FORMATION, WE WILL
BE ATTACKED FROM ALL
SIDES...

IF THEY THINK
THAT THEIR
MEDLEY OF
FIGHTERS WILL
BE A MATCH FOR
EN WARRIORS...
THEY HAVE
SOBELY UNDER-
ESTIMATED US.

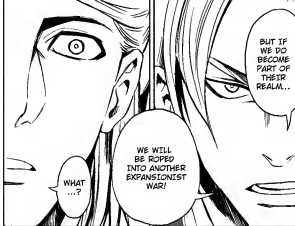
Battle

SO
THAT'S
THEIR
PLAN...











IM-
POSSI-
BLE!

IF
THEY WERE
REALLY
DOING
THAT, THE
OTHER
NATIONS
WOULDN'T
OBEY THEM
SO MEKKLY
!



YOU
CAN'T
MEAN
...

YES.



IS
TO GET
SOMEONE
ELSE TO
FIGHT
YOUR
OPPONENT
FOR YOU.

AND IN WAR,
THE MOST
CRUCIAL
ELEMENT IS
NOT TO WIN
BUT TO
SURVIVE.
THEREFORE,
THE BEST
POSSIBLE
STRATEGY...

WAR
DECIDES
THE
SURVI-
VAL OF
NATIONS
...



THE BARBARIANS
CONTINUE THEIR
INVASION BY
HAVING THE
CONQUERED
NATIONS SUPPLY
THEM WITH ENTIRE
ARMIES.



YES. BUT THE
BARBARIANS
MAKE THEM
OBEY WITH
A SINGLE
STIPULATION.

"IF YOU MANAGE
TO TAKE OVER
THAT COUNTRY,
YOU CAN DO
WHATEVER YOU
WANT WITH IT."



THE
ONES WHO
CONQUER
THE MOST
COUNTRIES
BECOME
KINGS.

THE
STRONG
ONES
BECOME
FREE.

AND
ONLY
THOSE
WHO WIN
HAVE A
FUTURE
TO LOOK
FORWARD
TO.

THE
BARBARIANS
RULE BY FORCE
AND BELIEVE
THAT WHATEVER
YOU TAKE WITH
YOUR OWN
STRENGTH
BELONGS TO
YOU.

SO IF
YOU PROVE
YOURSELF
TO THEM,
THE EMPIRE
WILL
BESTOW
ALL SORTS
OF PRIVILE-
GES ON
YOU.







THE EMPIRE'S MIXED
FORCE SEEMS TO BE
NO MATCH FOR THE
EN SOLDIERS.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.
THEY DON'T
SEEM TO
HAVE
SUFFERED
ANY
LOSSES.



ADMI-
RABLE
...



OR
RATHER
"REGRET-
TABLE."

WON-
DERFUL
...



THEY
WOULDN'T
HAVE TO
DIE HERE
TODAY.

IF THEY
JUST HAD
A LITTLE
MORE
SENSE...











THE CENTRAL
PLAINS
HAVE GIVEN
US A GREAT
SPECTACLE
OF THEIR
STRENGTH.



THOSE
SAVAGES
...

HEAVEN
HAVE
MERCY
...!



SO EVEN
UNDISCIPLINED
SOLDIERS
ARE ABLE
TO
BECOME
FIERCE
WARRIORS
...

EVEN THE
WEAKEST
ANIMALS
BARE
THEIR
FANGS
WHEN
PUSHED
INTO A
CORNER
...



HEHE

THEY'RE
JUST
RUNNING
AROUND
CONFUSED
NOW.

OUR
FORCES
HAVE
PUSHED
BACK THE
EN ARMY.



WONT WE
SUFFER MORE
LOSSES THE
LONGER WE
DELAY JOINING
THEIR EMPIRE?

IF
THEY HAD
ALREADY
CONQUERED
SO MUCH
OF THE
WORLD...

BUT
IN
THAT
CASE
...



I NOW
UNDERSTAND
HOW THE
BARBARIANS
WERE ABLE...

TO BUILD
SUCH A
POWERFUL
EMPIRE.

IN THE
BARBARIAN
GOVERNMENT
SYSTEM, THOSE
AT THE TOP OF
THE RULING
CLASS BENEFIT
GREATLY OFF
THE BACKS OF
THE PEOPLE
BELOW
THEM.

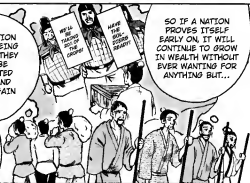


IF A NATION
STOPS BEING
USEFUL, THEY
WILL BE
EXPLOITED
OVER AND
OVER AGAIN

...

WITH NO
POSSIBILITY
OF ESCAPING
THE
BARBARIAN
RULE.

SO IF A NATION
PROVES ITSELF
EARLY ON, IT WILL
CONTINUE TO GROW
IN WEALTH WITHOUT
EVER WANTING FOR
ANYTHING BUT...



IN-
DEED.

THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND
AS IF IT
WOULD LAST
VERY LONG

...



AND THEN, THE
COUNTRY THAT'S
BEEN RELYING ON IT
SUDDENLY CANNOT
FEED ITSELF AND
WASTES AWAYS
BEFORE PERISHING
AS WELL...

IF THINGS
DON'T CHANGE
THEN WITH
EVERY FALLEN
NATION THE
EMPIRE WILL
EDGE CLOSER
AND CLOSER
TO ITS OWN
DOOM...

EVERY-
THING
HAS ITS
LIMITS.

A COUNTRY
WHICH IS
CONTINUOUSLY
EXPLOITED
EVENTUALLY
WITHERS AWAY
AND DIES.

IT'S
AS YOU
SAY...

I
SEE
...

MORE THAN ANYTHING, THEY WANT TO PROTECT THEIR POSITION BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

IF, FOR EXAMPLE, A REBELLION BROKE OUT AMIDST THEIR OWN RANKS, THEY WOULD BE HELPLESS TO STOP IT...

CORRECT.



WELL, I THINK THEY'RE AT LEAST AWARE OF THAT THEMSELVES...
THEY'RE THE ONES WITH THE MOST AT STAKE HERE, AFTER ALL.

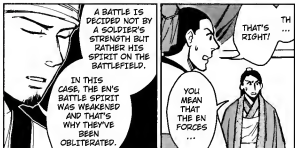
WHAT IS ALL THIS?

IT'S WRONG TO FORCE SO MANY PEOPLE TO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!

AN "EMPIRE" ?!
THEY'RE JUST USING FORCE AND FEAR TO OPPRESS PEOPLE!

WHY ARE THEY ONLY THINKING ABOUT THEMSELVES ?!!









DON'T WANT
TO LET THOSE
PEOPLE DO
WHATEVER
THEY WANT
TO CENTRAL
PLAINS!!



I
REALLY
DON'T
WANT
TO GET
EVERYONE
INVOLVED
IN THIS
WAR...

WE'LL GO
FORTH AND
FACE THE
ENEMY.



BUT I
ALSO...

GRRRR



INDEED.

PAM! P



THAT'S
WHAT I
WANTED
TO HEAR!

GREAT
!









THAT
STUBBORN
KING BAISSEI
WILL
DEFINITELY
STRUGGLE
TO THE
BITTER END.

WE MUST BE
VERY CAREFUL
TO NOT
SUFFER ANY
SERIOUS
LOSSES IN
OUR FIGHT
WITH THEM.

SO
MIGHT BE A
SHADOW OF
ITS FORMER
SELF BUT
THEY'RE
STILL A
POWERFUL
NATION.



HOWEVER, THEY
WANT TO AVOID
WAR AT ANY COST
AND ARE SLOW
TO ACT, SO THEY
WON'T MAKE A
MOVE UNTIL THE
VERY LAST
MOMENT.

THE KEY TO OUR
VICTORY IS SHIN.
KAN, EN AND OUR
SECRET PARTNER
SEI WON'T BE A
PROBLEM BUT CHO
AND GI MIGHT.



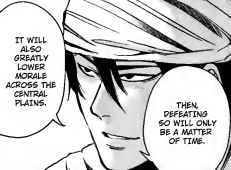
IF SOME
OTHER
NATION
WERE TO
INTERFERE
IN THE
MIDST OF
IT...

IT
WOULD
BE VERY
TROUBLE-
SOME.

AND IF
BY THAT
TIME
SHIN
WILL
BELONG
TO US...

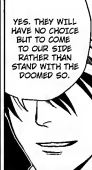
I
SEE.

IT
WOULD.



IT WILL
ALSO
GREATLY
LOWER
MORALE
ACROSS THE
CENTRAL
PLAINS.

THEN,
DEFEATING
SO WILL ONLY
BE A MATTER
OF TIME.



YES. THEY WILL
HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO COME
TO OUR SIDE
RATHER THAN
STAND WITH THE
DOOMED SO.



THIS
STRATEGY
CANNOT
FAIL.

YOU'VE
DONE IT
AGAIN, MY
LORD.

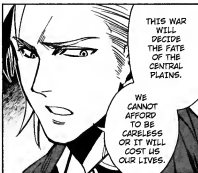


I TOO
CANNOT
AFFORD TO
LOSE THIS
WAR NO
MATTER
WHAT...



WHEN YOU
COME FROM
THAT
COUNTRY,
YOU LEARN
HOW TO BE
EXTRA
CAREFUL.

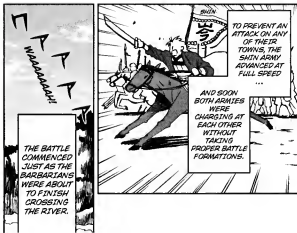








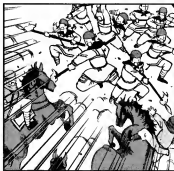














THEY HAVE STATIONED 300
GUARDS IN THE CAPITAL TO
PROTECT THE CASTLE AND
200 RIDERS AT THE
FORTRESS SOUTH-EAST
FROM HERE BUT IT
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE
THEY'RE ON THE
MOVE.



ZEN, CAN YOU
CONFIRM THAT
SHIN HAS
CONCENTRATED
ALL OF ITS
FORCES HERE?

TURN

BUT TRY
AND BUY US
AS MUCH
TIME AS
YOU CAN.

GOOD.
WE WILL
HAVE TO
SACRIFICE
A FEW
SOLDIERS
HERE TODAY
...

YES,
SIRE!

YES,
SIRE!



SORRY, BUT
I'M GOING TO
USE THIS
OPPORTUNITY
TO TAKE
OVER YOUR
KINGDOM!



SHIN
...

UNFORTU-
NATELY,
THEY'RE
STILL FAR
TOO WEAK
TO STAND
UP TO US!

THEY
SEEM
LIKE A
PROMISING
BUNCH BUT
...



GLANCE

HAIPH...

OF COURSE, THIS STRATEGY RELIES ENTIRELY ON THE SHIN ARMY NOT NOTICING THAT THE BARBARIANS HAVE DIVIDED THEIR FORCES.

FIRST, THEY HAD THEIR MIXED FORCE AND ONE BATTALION OF BARBARIAN RIDERS CROSS THE RIVER DIRECTLY AND CLASH WITH THE SHIN ARMY.

MOVING SOLDIERS ACROSS A RIVER IS A DANGEROUS MANEUVER. THE BARBARIANS COULDN'T HAD ATTEMPTED IT HEAD-ON.

THEN, THEIR MAIN FORCE WOULD TAKE THE LONG WAY AROUND, CROSS A BRIDGE AND PENETRATE SHIN TERRITORY.

KAN

CLASH

SHIN

THE CASTLE GUARDS ARE STAYING STILL.

STILL WAITING FOR WORD ON THE FORTRESS BUT...

THE SOLDIERS AT THE CASTLE AND THE FORTRESS ?

HOW'S THE REAR?

TROT TROT

NO ONE SEEMS TO BE HEADING THIS WAY.

TROT TROT





I'M SONBU,
THE SHIN
STRATEGIST.
PLEASED TO
MAKE YOUR
ACQUAIN-
TANCE.

WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?!



THAT'S
AS FAR
AS YOU
GO.



GLARE

GLARE

NOW THEN, I'M
AFRAID YOU'RE
NOT WELCOMED
HERE SO...

COULD YOU
PLEASE
RETURN TO
WHERE
YOU CAME
FROM?





DAA
AAA
AMN
YOU!



GWWWWWUUSHHH!



YOU
SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
A LITTLE
MORE
SUSPI-
CIOUS...

ABOUT OUR
DECISION
TO ENGAGE
YOU BY A
RIVER OF
ALL PLACES.



THUD THUD
EVERY-
ONE
EVACU-
ATE!



YOUNG
MASTER
LOOK
...!!

WHAT
...

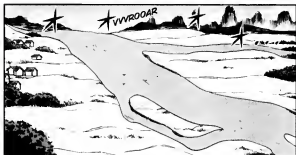


VSSHHHHH

A... A
FLOOD IS
COMING
THIS WAY!



IT'S
A
TRAP
...
!!













WHAT I
WANT TO
KNOW IS
HOW'S
THE
BATTLE
GOING?

...



ARE YOU
HURT,
YOUNG
MASTER
?!

JUST
A FEW
BRUISES.
IT'S
NOTHING.



AFTER THE
FLOODING, THE
MAIN FORCE WAS
CAUGHT BETWEEN
THE SHIN ARMY
IN THE REAR AND
THE ARCHERS IN
THE FRONT. THEY
WERE ALMOST
COMPLETELY
ANNIHILATED

...

THE
ENTIRE
CAVALRY'S BEEN
KILLED AND
THE MIXED
FIGHTERS
HAVE BEEN
TAKEN
PRISONER
BY SHIN.

THE
LANDING
HAS BEEN A
FAILURE.



...!

THIS MEANS WE
WILL HAVE TO
ABANDON THE
INVASION OF
SHIN FOR
NOW...





THE SURROUNDING AREAS WHERE CANALS STILL HAVEN'T BEEN BUILT BECAME SUBMERGED, CUTTING OFF CONTACT WITH THE OTHER KINGDOMS.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT WAS TO BUY SHIN SOME TIME BEFORE THE NEXT BATTLE.

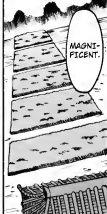
BESIDES DEALING A BLOW TO THE ENEMY FORCES, THE FLOODING'S MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO HINDER THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BARBARIAN ARMY...





EVEN THE
FEARSOME
BARBARIANS
WON'T BE ABLE
TO WITHSTAND
THE MIGHT OF
OUR ARMY
NOW.

SHIN
HAS GIVEN
US THE
PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY
TO ATTACK.



MAGNI-
FICENT.



...



WE WILL MAKE
THE CENTRAL
PLAINS' MONKEYS
UNDERSTAND THAT
IT'S NO USE TO
OPPOSE OUR
GREAT EMPIRE!

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.



KAN.

THE SO
ARMY
IS ON
THE
MOVE?

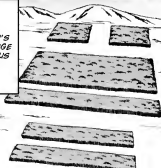
THE TWO
ARMIES MET
AT THE
VASTEST
PLATEAU IN
ALL OF THE
CENTRAL
PLAINS.



THE BARBARIANS
PROCEEDED
TOWARDS THE
BATTLEFIELD,
ALMOST AS IF
THEY'VE BEEN
PREPARING FOR IT.

DESPITE THEIR
CONSECUTIVES
BATTLES
AGAINST EN,
KAN AND SHIN,
WITH THE
LAST ONE
RESULTING
IN THEIR
TOTAL DEFEAT

THE
BARBARIAN'S
DISADVANTAGE
WAS OBVIOUS
TO ALL.



HOWEVER, THE
BARBARIANS
HAVE FIELDIED
ONLY 4,000
SOLDIERS
AGAINST
SU'S 10,000.

IT'S FOR THOSE
REASONS THAT
NO ONE IN THE
CENTRAL PLAINS
COULD BELIEVE
THE RESULT OF
THIS BATTLE.

IT IS SAID THAT
IN AN OPEN FIELD
NOTHING IS
MORE POWERFUL
THAN THE WAR
CHARIOT, WITH
JUST ONE OF
THEM BEING
WORTH 100
INFANTRYMEN.



ADDITION-
NALLY,
SU HAD
1,000 WAR
CHARIOTS

THE 10,000-
STRONG SO
ARMY WAS
OBLITERATED
IN JUST 1 DAY.



WHERE THEY'VE
MANAGED TO
DISABLE OR
DESTROY THEM
IN A BLINK OF AN
EYE BY TOPPLING
THEM OVER.



FIRST, THE
BARBARIANS
LURED THE SO WAR
CHARIOTS INTO
THEIR OWN CAMP
...

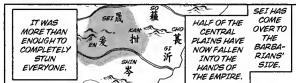
WITH 10,000
SOLDIERS
IN TOW,
THEY'VE
ATTACKED
THE SO
ARMY FROM
THE REAR.



THE SEI
ARMY HAS
BETRAYED
THE
CENTRAL
PLAINS.

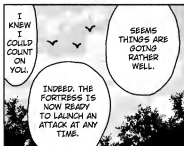
THEN, AT
THE WORST
POSSIBLE
TIME, THE
ONE THING
SO HAD
BEEN
FEARING
THE MOST
HAPPENED.















LIKE THIS CATAPULT.
WE WON'T HAVE ANY
USE FOR IT UNLESS WE
ARE ACTUALLY FIGHTING
THE ENEMY.

THE
BARBARIAN
ARMY IS
STILL OUT
THERE AND
YET ALL WE'VE
DONE IS
REINFORCE
OUR
DEFENSES.

IS IT
REALLY
ALRIGHT
FOR US
TO BE
DOING
NOTHING?



AND WE
WON'T
EVEN
HAVE TO
LIFT A
FINGER.

THEY WILL
HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO COME
TO US...

IT'LL
BE
ALRIGHT.







IF BY
ANY CHANCE
THERE'LL BE A
PROBLEM WITH
SUPPLIES
DURING OUR
BATTLE WITH
SO...

NO MATTER
HOW RICH
OF A NATION
KAN MIGHT BE,
KEEPING 50,000
SOLDIERS FED IS
NO EASY TASK.



BUT WE CAN'T
LET OUR
IMPATIENCE
COST US
VICTORY! IT
IS THE ONE
THING WE
ABSOLUTELY
CANNOT DO!



I
KNOW
THAT!



I SHUDDER
TO THINK
THAT HE AND
I SHARE
SOME OF THE
SAME BLOOD.



I CAN
SEE
WHY
THAT
MAN
HAS
CHOSEN
TO LIVE
THERE.

TO ATTACK
THEM FROM
HERE WE'D HAVE
TO MOVE OUR
TROOPS THROUGH
DANGEROUS
TERRAIN: RIVERS,
MOUNTAINS
ETC.



SHIN HAS
PROVEN
ITSELF
MORE
DANGEROUS
THAN WE
THOUGHT.

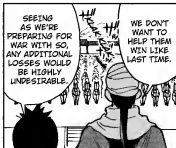


WE MUST DO
SOMETHING ABOUT
THE POOR QUALITY
OF OUR MIXED
FORCE. THE ENEMY
MIGHT EXPLOIT
THAT.

IF WE'RE TO
FIGHT SHIN,
WE CAN NO
LONGER RELY
ON HALF-
HEARTED
STRATEGIES.



YES.
WE WILL
SHOW THEM
NO MERCY
FROM NOW
ON!



SEEING
AS WE'RE
PREPARING FOR
WAR WITH SO,
ANY ADDITIONAL
LOSSES WOULD
BE HIGHLY
UNDESIRABLE.

WE DON'T
WANT TO
HELP THEM
WIN LIKE
LAST TIME.



THEN WE
SIMPLY
WON'T
APPROACH
IT.

BUT WON'T WE
FALL PREY TO
SHIN'S
CATAPULTS AS
SOON AS WE
APPROACH THE
KINGDOM?



SHIN
WILL BE
DESTROYED
BY THE
EMPIRE'S
STRONGEST
FIGHTING
FORCE...

THE
IMPE-
RIAL
ROYAL
GUARDS
!!



SO AT LEAST THEY
WON'T MOBILIZE
THEIR SOLDIERS
WHILE WE'RE
STILL IN MID-
MARCH AND AT
A SERIOUS
DISADVANTAGE.

THE FACT OF THE
MATTER IS THAT
SHIN WON'T MAKE
A MOVE UNTIL WE
COME WITHIN
RANGE OF THEIR
CATAPULTS...



HOW DO YOU
PROPOSE WE
DO THAT?

WE JUST
HAVE TO
LURE THEM
OUTSIDE
THE RANGE
OF THE
CATAPULTS.



AND
IT'LL
SOON
COME
TO YOU.

TRY PUTTING
YOURSELF
IN THEIR
PLACE...



LORD
RYO-
KYU!

LORD
SON-
BU!



THEY SEEMED TO
HAVE ABANDONED
THE IDEA OF
CROSSING THE
MOUNTAINS TO
ATTACK AND HAVE
NOW MOVED THEIR
BASE TO EN.

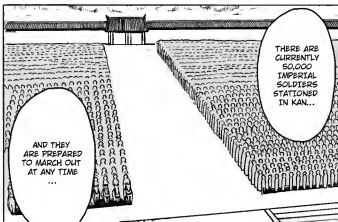
THEIR FORCE
STANDS AT 5,000
SOLDIERS AND IS
MADE UP ENTIRELY
OF THE EMPIRE'S
STRONGEST
FIGHTERS, THE
IMPERIAL ROYAL
GUARDS...!



ABOUT
TIME!

THE
BAR-
BARI-
ANS
ARE
ON
THE
MOVE
!!

AND
?!

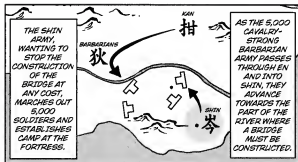




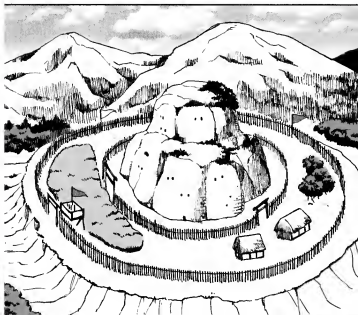
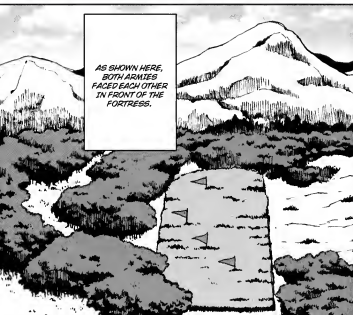
HOWEVER,
THAT DID NOT
HAPPEN THIS
TIME.

THERE
COMMENCES
A BATTLE TO
SEE WHO CAN
TAKE THE
INITIATIVE
...

AT THE
START OF
ANY WAR,
BEFORE
THE ARMIES
EVEN
FACE EACH
OTHER...



AS SHOWN HERE,
BOTH ARMIES
FACED EACH OTHER
IN FRONT OF THE
FORTRESS.





LISTEN UP!
YOU'RE LEFT
WITH ONLY
TWO CHOICES!



THIS IS
YOUR LAST
CHANCE!

STALL ANY
LONGER
AND IT
WILL COST
YOU YOUR
LIVES!



I'LL
HAVE
YOUR
ANSWER
NOW!!



YOU
CAN
GIVE
UP AND
SUBMIT
YOUR-
SELVES
TO US!

OR
YOU CAN
CONTINUE
TO FIGHT
TO THE
BITTER
END!







YOU WERE
SO ABSORBED
WITH SHIN THAT
WE WERE ABLE
TO TAKE OUT YOUR
REAR TROOPS
WITHOUT ANY
OF YOU
NOTICING.

HMPH...

WHAT IS
THE EN
ARMY
DOING
HERE?!

YOU
IMPERIAL
SOLDIERS
ARE NO
MATCH
FOR US EN
WARRIORS!

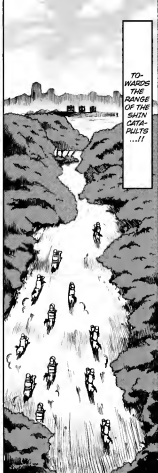
WITHOUT
YOUR MAIN
FORCE...

WE'VE
TAKEN BACK
THE LAND
OF OUR
FATHERS!

WHILE
YOU WERE
ABSORBED
WITH YOUR
INVASION OF
SHIN...









AND YOU
WILL BE
ATTACKED
BY OUR
CATAPULTS
...!



IF YOU MOVE
BEYOND THIS
POINT, I WILL
GIVE THE
SIGNAL...



UGH...

OR DIE
BY OUR
HANDS....!



SO
YOU CAN
STAY
HERE
AND
BURN TO
DEATH
...



BUT IF YOU
SURRENDER
WE WILL
SHOW YOU
MERCY!!



THE ROYAL
GUARDS
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO BREAK
THROUGH THEIR
DEFENSES.
STILL... WE
WON'T ESCAPE
UNHARMED...

THE
SITUATION
HAS
REVERSED...!
BUT EVEN
SO...



THAT'S
BECAUSE YOU
DON'T FULLY
APPRECIATE
THE SITUATION
YOU'RE IN...



IT SEEMS
YOU DO
NOT WANT
TO ADMIT
DEFEAT.



WE'VE
RECEIVED
WORD THAT
SO HAS
LIBERATED
SBI FROM
THE CLUTCHES
OF THE
IMPERIAL
ARMY.

THE
TRUTH
IS, A
LITTLE
WHILE
AGO...

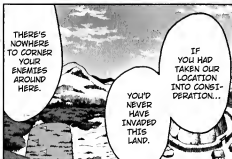
!!







THERE'S
NOWHERE
TO CORNER
YOUR
ENEMIES
AROUND
HERE.



IF
YOU HAD
TAKEN OUR
LOCATION
INTO CONSI-
DERATION...

YOU'D
NEVER
HAVE
INVADED
THIS LAND.



ALRIGHT
...?

DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT
WITH ME.
CUT OFF
MY HEAD
IF YOU
LIKE.



ALRIGHT,
I
SURREN-
DER.

I DON'T
NEED TO
HEAR
ABOUT
ALL THE
REASONS
WHY I'VE
FAILED.



THAT
IS
WHAT
...

IF I DIE HERE
TODAY, IT WILL
ONLY MEAN THAT
I WAS WEAK...

IN THIS
WORLD,
THE WEAK
GET EATEN
BY THE
STRONG.

THEY DO NOT
GET TO LIVE
ALL HAPPY-
GO-LUCKY.

KASHU
!!

WE
CALL
JUSTICE
!!









NOBODY KNOWS
WHERE CHOKYU
AND HIS
REMAINING
SOLDIERS RAN
OFF TO AFTER
ABANDONING
THEIR ARMY.
SOME RUMORS
SAY THAT THEY
ESCAPED
TOWARDS THE
SOUTHERN
ISLANDS BUT
NOTHING MORE
THAN THAT.

LATER, JUST AS
SONBU PREDICTED, THE
REMAINING IMPERIAL
FORCE HAS DISBANDED
AFTER THE
DISAPPEARANCE OF
THEIR COMMANDER
CHOKYU.

THE THREAT
OF THE
BARBARIAN
INVASION
OF THE
CENTRAL
PLAINS HAS
PASSED.



THE NATIONS OF
THE CENTRAL
PLAINS HAVE
STARTED ANEW IN
ORDER TO MEND
THE WOUNDS LEFT
BY THIS WAR.







IF I WANT TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I WILL HAVE TO CHANGE.



EVEN IF THE CENTRAL PLAINS WERE TO UNITE AGAIN, ANOTHER WAR MIGHT STILL BREAK OUT.

AND WE CAN'T BE SURE THAT THE BARBARIANS WON'T RETURN ONE DAY.



THERE ARE ALSO TIMES WHEN HE MUST BECOME CRUEL...

THERE ARE TIMES ONE MUST FIGHT TO PROTECT THE THINGS HE HOLDS DEAR.



BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO RELY ON YOU LIKE THIS FOREVER.

YOU'VE DONE WONDERFUL THINGS FOR OUR KINGDOM AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU...

YOUR STRATEGIES NEVER FAILED TO SURPRISE ME.





THEIR SELF-PRESERVATION MECHANISMS KICK IN AND THEY EASILY ABANDON REASON.

WHEN PEOPLE ARE SUDDENLY THROWN OUT OF THEIR REGULAR, PEACEFUL LIVES...



BUT ...

WAR IS A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN A SOCIETY.



THAT'S THE TYPE OF MOOD THAT ENGULFS THE ENTIRE NATION DURING A WAR.

AND IF THEY HAVE TO ATTACK OR EXPLOIT OTHER PEOPLE TO DO THAT, THEN SO BE IT.

THEY FEEL THE NEED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY ...



THEN THE COUNTRY WILL DO SURPRISINGLY WELL.

BUT IF AMIDST ALL OF IT...

JUST ONE HUMAN BEING CAN SHOW GENUINE CARE FOR OTHERS...



IF IT WASN'T
FOR IT, WE'D
HAVE NEVER
COME TOGETHER
SO QUICKLY.
IN A WAY, IT
SAVED US.

WE CAN'T
IGNORE THE
LOSSES WE'VE
SUFFERED IN
THE WAR BUT
...

AND SO
WE'VE
RETURNED
TO OUR
REGULAR
LIVES.



THE KEY TO
MAINTAINING
PEACE LIES
WITH CHO
AND GI...

HOW LONG
WILL SO
AND SEI
KEEP UP
THEIR
TRUCE?

THE
ALLIANCE
BETWEEN
EN, KAN
AND SHIN
IS STRONG
BUT...

TODAY
AS WELL,
WE THREE
CURIOUS
PEOPLE WILL
DISCUSS
MILITARY
STRATEGIES
IN HUSHED
VOICES...

SUN TZU'S "THE ART OF WAR"

孫子の兵法

THE
COMPLETE
COLOR
BOOK
VERSION

END